THE
WRESTLING FLYER
NEWSLETTER

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INTERVIEW
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JC: How much influence did your father (Grizzly Smith, a WCW road agent) have on you with wrestling?

JR: He didn't. I was never around him, growing up. The only way he influenced me was by telling me I wouldn't be able to do it. That's all the motivation I needed to want to do it.

JC: He didn't push you to be a wrestler at all?

JR: No, not at all. He was never around me when I was growing up, I lived with other people.

JC: Did you ever have anybody there reaching out to help you with your problems with drugs and alcohol? Did anybody like promoters, friends, or wrestlers try to help you?

JR: Well, I think the WWF's testing program did help a little bit. You always have a couple of friends that might express concern, but I'm a grown man and I make my own mistakes.

JC: Do you think that their objectives for their suspensions are more to help the person or to maintain a good reputation for the company?

JR: I made mistakes. That's unfair for me to call. You know, they suspend people and it's up to the individual to get help. Maybe sometimes we expect too much.

JC: I guess during your time in the WWF, you tried getting help before and I guess, it didn't really work. Why is it working this time?

JR: Well, I was asked to get help by someone. There's a difference between somebody asking you to get help and you wanting help. Sometimes our willpower is too strong and we think that we can handle ourselves. People have to be ready to turn their life over to a power greater than themselves, and that's the key. For a long time, I thought that I could handle it. I didn't think it was a problem. You just have to learn. It's no different than learning how to wrestle. If a person opens his mouth his first day there and says, "I'm the greatest that ever lived," what a mistake he's making.

JC: So you're saying that before, somebody else was trying to push you. It's like you weren't doing it on your own, and that's what has to happen?

JR: Exactly. It's got to be by your own wish, it can't be by somebody else telling you to go, making you go, your wife wanting you to go, your family wanting you to go; it doesn't work that way, you've got to want to help.

JC: Did you reject those people when they tried to tell you that or when they wanted you to get help?

JR: I felt that I could handle it on my own, that it wasn't that big of a problem. It was my own ignorance. I didn't understand what was going wrong with me. I felt that I could take care of it or I just didn't want to take care of it, or I needed it, or for whatever reason I did it. That's the bad thing about addictions, no matter if it's drugs or alcohol. Addiction in alcoholism are the only diseases that tell you that you don't have a disease. They tell you it's everybody else and that your just fine. Whereas cancer, it lays you flat on a bed or whatever, and then you know you need to get help. But with alcoholism and everything else, they'll tell you, "No, you're okay, man, it's their problem." They just don't understand. But, there comes a time when you'll have to look at yourself, and that time had come for me.

JC: Would you say your problems with drugs and alcohol put you in your own little world?

JR: Sure. I always felt alone. It's a very lonely world, sick world. Your drug or your alcohol becomes your best friend. That's just the way the disease works. It makes you do away with everything that you really love in life. It separates you from those that you love and it separates you from the

things that you love. It takes over you and runs your life. A lot of my problems came from alcohol and from pain killers, due to neck surgery. Broken bones, neck surgery. Not only have I had one surgery, but I've had five or six neck procedures now. The doctor gives the pain pills and a lot of them are... It's prescribed medicine. It's not like I was going on the street looking for pain pills. These drugs were prescribed, and with a mixture of alcohol, they have give you a desired result. Total Euphoria.

JC: Up until you went to Titan Sports, you never really had the "Snake" gimmick. Was it you who came up with that idea for Titan or was it Vince who created it?

JR: Well, it had been an idea of mine for a long time. And unfortunately, nobody thought it was a good idea. I called Vince McMahon when I was working for Bill Watts. I had given my notice to Bill Watts. Vince McMahon had approached me three years earlier, when I was doing the booking in Atlanta, when it was NWA, Georgia Championship Wrestling. But, I was not ready to go. Another mistake that I made, I should have went (to WWF) then, instead of going through Texas and having hard times there and then going back to Watts and having more punishment and hard times there and then going to Vince after that. I wasn't making money (working in Texas and for Watts).

JC: So was it you who came up with the whole "Snake" gimmick?

JR: Along with McMahon's help, sure. He asked if I'd be willing to do it, and I said sure, why not? It has worked for a long time and it always will.

JC: Do you think there has ever been any situations where things involving the snake have gone too far?

JR: I didn't particularly like Earthquake sitting on it.

JC: Did you feel that what happened at Halloween Havoc went too far?

JR: No, I didn't think that was too far. After all, what is too far, you know?

JC: I guess some things like the Sgt Slaughter angle with the war and everything, people felt that crossed the line.

JR: That was a bit too much, I thought. But you're talking about a snake, and me carrying the snake, and I'm not talking about going out and sticking it in somebody's pants, either.

JC: If you had a choice right now of what you wanted to do in wrestling, an announcer, a booker, a manager, or a wrestler, what are you looking towards now?

JR: Pet owner!! Maybe I'll buy McMahon out!! I'm just having fun. Right now, I'm not trying to think about my career, I'm thinking about healing. People have to understand that anytime you're dealing with alcoholism addiction, usually addiction in alcoholism are just symptoms of a true disease. That's not the real problem. The real problem was having too many child issues when I was a child and I didn't understand that growing up I had a very mixed up life. And now I'm able to deal with that. Some people stuff the pain, are successful at it. Some people aren't. I wasn't successful at stuffing the pain because I had too much to stuff. Sooner or later, that pain has to come to the top. When it comes to the top, then you medicate it, and that's what I did. I medicated the feelings that I had, the unhappiness, the hate, the anger. Growing up, I wasn't from a mother and father. I went several different roots through my childhood. People out there should realize that their children are a lot smarter than they think. They suffer a lot more than people think. Parents actions will really formulate a child's mind. That's why Jake "The Snake" will always claim to be society's child. Maybe that's what drove me hard some time with being bitter about my life. And it drove me to do a lot of things that I don't think I would have done had my childhood been different.

JC: What do you think is happening with WCW right now?

JR: I think that Bill Watts is negative for this business. I think he's a very selfish person. I think his ideas are 60s and 70s, not the 90s. I think Dusty Rhodes is a great man and could be a great booker, but it's hard to do anything when you've got 30 or 40 pounds, or in Bill Watts' case 300 pounds of lead tied to your ankles.

JC: When you say his ideas are ideas from the 60s and 70s, what do you mean by that? What were the ideas back then?

JR: The 60s attitude was, intimidate, bully, make someone do something. And that was not only in wrestling, but that was just a way of life. They were killing the Kennedys and Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. I mean sooner or later, that shit comes to the top. And that happened in life and yet, you have somebody trying to rule the same way now with athletes that are much smarter, much brighter, and deserve a lot more than they're getting. Wrestlers are the most underpaid athletes in the world, no doubt about it, and abused also.

JC: Why don't you think there's been a situation before where everybody in a certain company works together and with each other to achieve the same goals?

JR: Why hasn't it been done? Because you've got people out there that are selfish and you've got people that are jealous and you have people that don't have talent. And they're willing to do anything to keep a position. I mean this business is not based on rav talent. This business, unfortunately, is based on whoever the booker is deciding to go with. To give that athlete the television. TV is a tool. It's just how you market the product. Vince McMahon's a wizard at marketing a product and Bill Watts doesn't have a clue as to how to market a product.

JC: Where do you think WCW was headed under Kip Frey?

JR: I don't know. Kip doesn't know this business, either. Nothing against Frey, he's a brilliant man, he's a lawyer, but I don't have a lot of faith in people that do not under-

stand the business. That would be like asking a young child to drive a race car 200 miles an hour. How much success are you going to have?

JC: Do you think that he had it half-right? Do you think he had the right attitude towards his employees?

JR: He had the right attitude towards the athletes, I think. He gave the athletes more for what they'd done and Kip had more respect.

JC: With all the talk over contracts and everything, do you think the guaranteed contracts were a problem, because it seemed you did have guys there that wouldn't work because they knew they were getting that money no matter what?

JR: Oh yeah, but you're going to have that in anything. That's what's wrong with society today. In the workplace, you have unions that are protecting people that don't work. Unfortunately, you're going to have people that want a free ride in anything they do. I mean you have policeman that do their job and you also have policeman that are crooked.

JC: Do you think the morale in WCW is the main problem there?

JR: It's very poor. A lot of it's morale, a lot of it's direction.

JC: Do you think WCW has a direction right now?

JR: Well, I don't know. I think Dusty Rhodes has a lot of good ideas, but he's got to be able to implicate those and not just come up with great ideas and have them cut off by whoever's cutting them off. And I can't say for sure who it is, but I have my own ideas.

JC: Well, as you said earlier, wrestlers are the most underpaid athletes in the world. So right now with the business the way it is, with the major companies having financial problems, how can these companies pay the wrestlers more?

JR: Yeah, I always know the business.

JC: So do you think it's fair for the wrestlers to get great money when the company would just continue to lose money?

JR: I think that wrestlers have been underpaid for so long, and anytime anybody gets any money, I'm happy for them. But, then again, I would want to see the guys perform, you know, make what they earn. And commit themselves to doing the things... You've got most of the guys that don't mind going out and performing. There's always going to be a few bad apples. I was in love with it (performing). It needs to be a love affair.

JC: What do you think is happening amongst the boys now? Are they all at each other's throats with these hard times?

JR: Sure, yeah. Well, it's going to be like that anytime you do anything that's not a team sport, you're going to have guys that want to cut each other's throats. The whole idea for promotions is to divide and conquer, that's why there's not any unions.

JC: What do you think has to happen for wrestling to break out of it's current bad state?

JR: I think they've got to bring back the excitement in it and they've got to get new talent.

JC: And how do you think those changes will come about?

JR: When they get tired of losing money, they'll start reaching out and looking for talent again. But unfortunately, what happened was when the WCWs and the WWFs took everything over, there wasn't anymore small little breeding grounds for new talent, and all of a sudden, there wasn't anymore new talent. Where are you going to learn? Certainly not in Memphis!

JC: What is your attitude right now towards the business?

JR: I'll always love wrestling. But, just like a marriage, sometimes you can love a woman but you can't live with her, too. It would take something very special for me to decide to commit himself to a company, whether it would be WCW or WWF.

JC: Do you have any feelings that you've been burnt?

JR: No, no. I let things happen to myself. Nobody can do anything to me that I don't let happen to me, so who's fault was it? I mean there were things that I didn't feel were right, but then again, I let them happen. But, I'm not letting anymore happen. I'm not bitter, I'm just saying, the next time around will be different. I've learned a lot about myself. I have to be comfortable with myself. I talked to some people last night that wanted me to come wrestle some place and I said, well, this is what I want and this is what I do. They said, "Well, we can't do that," and I said thank you very much for thinking about me. I appreciate you and it's a compliment for you to call me, but I'm comfortable with my own talent. I don't think there's a wrestling company out there that does not want Jake Roberts.

JC: If there was any time in the future where you were asked to or you decided to drop the snake gimmick, where would...

JR: That's funny, because people think that the snake is what made me money. It's amazing that they think that I don't have talent now, I don't know how to wrestle, I don't know how to do an interview. That's ignorance, that's totally ridiculous. I can be anything I want to. Carrying a snake to a ring does not make a wrestler. That's like saying, "Okay, we'll put the snake in Joe Blow's corner and he'll be a great wrestling star." That's silly. Jake "The Snake" is Jake "The Snake" and if it works, why change it. It's unfortunate that certain people tried to destroy a proven piece of talent or a proven idea because they can't deal with their own jealousy or it's because they don't want to see it threaten their position. I mean, if you've got the fastest race horse, why shoot that one. It just doesn't make sense. But, it'll all come back.

That's one thing that's consistent about life, we do repeat our past. I got tired of repeating part of mine, and that's the part that I'm not going to repeat.

The preceding interview with Jake Roberts (Aurelian Smith Jr.) was the second part of an interview that was conducted during the first week in December. Part II was conducted by the editor, John Clark, via telephone from Jake's home near Atlanta, Georgia on 12/6.

The following is a brief interview with Bill Watts (the WCW VP of Wrestling Operations) that was conducted by the editor, John Clark, via telephone from the WCW offices on 12/15. This interview is a response to our interview with Jake Roberts that was printed here in the last issue.

BW: First of all, we're doing an interview about Jake "The Snake" Roberts and I read your newsletter and these are all my personal opinions. Personally, I think he must be very aptly named, if you've read the Bible, it seems like people of that ilk always were very misleading in their statements. Some of the statements he made were; that I stole his ideas when he worked for me in Mid-South. Well, first of all, I didn't know any ideas in wrestling were ever patented. I don't think any promoter has always been a person who thought of everything he did in his promotion. I think you gained ideas from people and you tried things and you refined things that you've heard about, and that's what a promotion does. And I've always said that my promotion had several corporate ideas, I mean they weren't ever just my ideas. I was just the guy that finally made the final decision on whether we do them or not do them. So I don't see how I stole all his ideas. I'm always amazed at these guys that have all the answers for every promotion and yet have never been given the at-bats, so to speak. And Jake, in my personal opinion, is a guy like that, he's always been one of these dressing room bookers. But, he's never been trusted enough or in a position that a promotion would risk.., based on him. He's had this track record, has admitted to this addiction, for some time. We vitally needed Jake, I think Jake has got a lot of talent. But, the difference is, and I had really gone into this situation with Jake, before we signed his contract, we would not tolerate drug abuse. Because with the big investment that our business is today, you're just going to turn around and get bitten by it. And so I asked him if he had his problems under control, as I had heard rumors of that when he was with the WWF from several people, and he assured me that he did. Then, as his behavior became more and more erratic, approaching the Havoc, I was really concerned. I mean there was a day a hotel called that the snake had been left in the room for two days and scared the heck out of the maids. We couldn't find him, nobody could find him. And we had to have one of our production guys go pick up his snake. Just that erratic behavior. And he said, "Well, I'm having family problems." Well, family problems, people can get very upset and have problems, but they don't just generally dropout. And so I was getting ready to drug test him anyway, and to tell you the truth, I was holding my breath that he even made the Havoc, that he shoved up. And now, people can sometimes understand some of the things we dealt with on the Havoc. We had people in great matches and they didn't live up to the matches, there's a lot of things that go on. We had been trying to get to him to discuss with him where he was here and where we were going. Again, I had opened the door to Jake when he came and we made the deal, because I know he has some creative ideas. And it took me two weeks, he didn't show up for meetings for two weeks, and then when he came in at the meeting, I could tell there was a problem. The minute he left, I went and told Bob Dhue, I said, "We've got to setup drug testing, I'm afraid that we've got a guy that has a problem." We were getting ready to, and I said, "I just don't want to do it till after the Havoc." Then, that television show that night (11/2), everybody noticed the tremendous difference in him, and then of course, by the next day, he was checked in. Well, I don't know what it is they teach you there, but my impression of his interview was that it was almost like the first thing they teach you is it's a disease and it's not really your fault, it's em afraid that we've got a guy that has a problem." We were

getting ready to, and I said, "I just don't want to do it till after the Havoc." Then, that television show that night (11/2), everybody noticed the tremendous difference in him, and then of course, by the next day, he was checked in. Well, I don't know what it is they teach you there, but my impression of his interview was that it was almost like the first thing they teach you is it's a disease and it's not really your fault, I mean it's everything but your own fault. Well, let me tell you, it's just like stealing or anything else, you make the conscious decision to do it. And if you have a weakness for stealing, you become a thief. If you have a weakness for drugs, you become an addict. If you have a weakness for alcohol, you become an alcoholic, but it's your decision. So if he was so concerned about his family, why didn't he take care of his family first? He had a very good deal here, a very lucrative deal here. But, our contracts... We don't steal any money. First, our contract is based upon what you earn and then you get a bonus if you go through a certain period of time without breaching your contract. So he got paid the money in his quarterly deal, but he didn't get the bonus because he breached his contract. You get paid a certain amount, then if you go through the quarter that we're talking about without a breach, we bonus you a certain amount. In other words, all you're entitled to is the first amount, then if your performance is great and everything goes along great, you get an additional bonus. So it's not like we're holding back your money, we give you more if you do everything right. Next thing, when he then was booked, I mean I've got a stack of my event coordinators' sheets, of every place we had to replace him where he was announced as a main event. We automatically fine you what your event pay was for missing that event. So he got fined an event pay for events that he was booked on, he got fined a TV pay for televisions that he had been booked on, just ones that were booked and were released out a month ahead. So those were the only events he was fined for. So that's the fine. The other thing is this bonus that he had not earned because he had breached his contract by being addicted to drugs. Now here's how he turns it around and that we've stolen money from his family.

and he did it to our company, and he did it to the wrestling fans. We need his talent, he's a great talent. Personally, I think he's a bit demented when he says, "I'm the greatest talent out there except Hulk Hogan." Let me tell you, Hulk Hogan proved his talent and he carried that company all along, and everybody wants to ride on Hulk Hogan's coattails and say, "I'm the greatest piece of talent out there except Hulk Hogan," but nobody else has proven it in modern times. So here's Jake, why wasn't he any longer with the WWF? The word I got was the same problems, the lack of reliability about him showing up for the events.

JC: Why did you decide to let him go when he went to take care of his problems instead of welcoming him back when he got done getting help for himself?

BW: When you have had the same problem ongoing for many years and you have entered rehab more than one time and hadn't completed it, why would I then be foolish enough to believe that all of a sudden, it's going to change. And finally, when you are a tiger long enough, you've got to where the stripes. So with us, it's a big investment. Why should we reward this guy when we've got a lot of people out here working hard that are showing up. I mean, pretty soon, it just becomes that we're stupid. Isn't it amazing that anytime we go the extra mile with these guys, we're dumb as a promotion, and then as soon as we put our foot down and say, "No, by gosh, we're not going to tolerate that," then all of a sudden, we have a heart problem, we have no feelings. His rehab is his problem, he is an independent contractor, he's not an employee, so he's in business for himself, so let him do his own rehab. And let him then deal with his own life, we've dealt with it, why should I want to go get bit again. He has had this problem, as far as my personal opinion, he has had this problem in some degree or another since the time I first met him. Now all of a sudden, he's like a born-again non-addict, I mean let him go prove to the world that he's reliable, but his track record with us is he's unreliable.

JC: Down the road, would you welcome him back if and when he proves to be...

BW: Well, but you see, he's already made the statement, he says, "I'll never work for WCW as long as Bill Watts is there." I wonder why he made that statement to me? Because he said to me, "What's my future with WCW?" I said, "As long as I'm here, you have no future." So he's turned it around publicly. All I said publicly was, "He has personal problems and we support his efforts." I was very nice to him publicly considering the damage and disappointment he's done to this company. He was our main event, and then he was not there to wrestle the main event after all the investment and all the people who had worked hard to get him in the position where everybody could benefit. We've had six major injuries and we have had two guys with personal problems. But, we've made a decision here if you've got certain personal problems, we are not going to tolerate them, that means you've breached and you're gone. We're not running a drug rehab center, we're running the AA, that's not our business, we're not in that business, so let the people that are in that business do it We didn't do anything to his family, he did it to his family, and you deal with them, but not with us, and we do not want people that have that problem in this business. The guys (WCW wrestlers) were complaining that whole last month about his (Jake Roberts) behavior in the ring and the different things. The guys had no confidence. He (Jake) says we don't see eye to eye. What don't we see eye to eye on? "No, I don't believe you should be an addict, I think that's your problem." But that's the only thing he and I didn't see eye to eye on. We never had a crossroad other than the fact that he was offered a bigger deal than he got prior to getting here, so all I did was I got the same athlete for less money. Do you think that more money would have made him have any better performance rate? No, more money would just give him more money to blow on his weaknesses.

JC: Do you wish him luck, though, in his effort to...

BW: I personally wish him luck in his problem, it's a strong problem. The other fact is, no, I don't want anything to do with him because we've already put the investment in him and he didn't live up to the investment, so why do we want to try it again. Cause some men can never get beyond that (problem).

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

The Royal Rumble emanates from Sacramento, CA at the Arco Arena on 1/24 and will air on PPV. Participating in the 30-man rumble are Jerry "The King" Lawler, Genichiro Tenryu, Carlos Colon, Bob Backlund, Ric Flair, Randy Savage, Brian Knobs, Jerry Sags, Ted DiBiase, IRS, Undertaker, Tatanka, Mr. Perfect, Crush, Papa Shango, Yokozuna, Earthquake, Typhoon, Nailz, Virgil, Owen Hart, Koko B. Ware, Repo Man, Samu, Fatu, Rick Martel, Damian Demento, Tito Santana, Berzerker, and Jim Duggan. The other matches scheduled for the event are WWF Champion Bret Hart vs Razor Ramon, IC Champion Shawn Michaels vs Marty Jannetty, Steiner Brothers vs Beverly Brothers, Bam Bam Bigelow vs Big Bossman, and Terry Taylor vs Max Moon. The lineup will be changed slightly as Nailz is gone and Duggan's future, as well as one or two others', are uncertain right now. There is also a possibility that the Taylor-Moon may be scratched. Kamala and El Gigante are names that are being thrown around right now about making appearances.

Jerry Lawler, who first appeared on Prime Time Wrestling on 12/7, will be the permanent replacement for Mr. Perfect on the syndicated WWF Superstars. The WWF and Lawler worked out an agreement that would also have him wrestle/appear at all the PPV events and he will fly up to the WWF studios every other week to do the voice-overs for the Superstars TV show.

Nailz (Kevin Wacholz), 34, is officially gone from the WWF and Titan Sports after an incident that took place in the dressing room at the 12/14 TV taping in Green Bay, WI. He was involved in a verbal and somewhat physical dispute with Vince McMahon, which resulted in his dismissal. They were arguing when Nailz grabbed McMahon and shoved him. The argument was apparently over money and now both their lawyers are meeting about Nailz' release and the legalities of the situation. He was scheduled to work many main event or semi-main event matches on most house shows the rest of December as well as

Undertaker, which was going to be pushed heavily. Papa Shango will replace him on most of his scheduled dates. Nailz' stay in the WWF was a short one as he was only there for about eight months.

Jim Duggan's last day with the WWF will be the 1/24 Royal Rumble. Duggan has apparently been upset about his position in the company and his pay since he made the call to the WWF offices on 11/27 to give them his notice of departure. It is possible that he could be gone even sooner than the Rumble.

Sensational Sherri Martel will be at the TV tapings on 1/4 and 1/5 in Texas and later that week will have eye surgery done because of scratches to her eyeball that she accidently suffered during the angle where Marty Jannetty smashed the mirror over her head. She'll return full-time at the Royal Rumble and will go back on the road after that and will accompany Jannetty in his matches with Michaels.

Prime Time Wrestling will undergo many exciting changes starting with the 1/11 show. The new name of the show will be Pro Wrestling Raw, meaning raw and uncut, as the show will now be shown live. It will air on Mondays from 9 to 10pm. The show will be taped live each week in New York City at the Manhattan Center studios. The WWF has already booked the studios for the following dates: 1/11, 1/18, and 2/1. That will be the regular pattern of tapings for the show as they tape WWF Superstars and WWF Challenge every three weeks at various arenas around the country and Canada. They have TV tapings on 1/25 and 1/26 in California and that week, the Pro Wrestling Raw will be taped live in San Jose, CA, the WWF Superstars TV taping on 1/25. The hosts of Raw will be Vince McMahon and Randy Savage and the show will be extremely similar to the weekly live Memphis shows, as they'll have matches, interviews, etc, in the small studio atmosphere.

WWF Superstars was taped on 12/14 at the Brown County Arena in Green Bay, WI before about 4,000 fans. There were only a few competitive matches held as they didn't tape any matches for Prime Time Wrestling, as that show will be changing its format. In non-squash matches held that evening, Mr. Perfect beat Berzerker, Headshrinkers beat Tito Santana & Virgil, IC Champ Shawn Michaels beat Skinner, Nasty Boys beat Tag Team Champions Money Inc by countout, Razor Ramon beat The Big Bossman, Nasty Boys wrestled Beverly Brothers to a double-DQ, Doink the Clown (Matt Borne - Big Josh) beat Virgil, Michaels pinned Marty Jannetty in a great match, Undertaker beat Papa Shango (sub for Nailz), and WWF Champion Bret Hart pinned Ric Flair. Rick & Scott Steiner made their debut as they worked a squash defeating Rock Warner & Scott Colton. There were no differences in their work or appearance or anything else. Also working squashes for TV were Nasty Boys, Terry Taylor, Bam Bam Bigelow, Crush, Jannetty, Undertaker, Tatanka, Ramon, Yokozuna, Kamala, and Lance Cassidy. They did an angle with Doink the Clown, now making him a serious contender, after Crush had squashed W.T. Jones. Crush was leaving the ring when Doink came out and took off a false arm he was holding in a sling and beat Crush with it, who did a stretcher job. They also started the angle about who's corner Sensational Sherri will be in at the Royal Rumble when Jannetty meets Michaels for the IC title. It seems to be a similar situation like the angle they did in August over who's corner Perfect would be in at SummerSlam. It appears as though Sherri will make her turn with this angle and will be in Marty's corner January and February. He was involved in a program with The at the 1/24 PPV.

WWF Challenge was taped on 12/15 at the Dane County Arena in Madison, WI before a horrible crowd of about 2,500, which made the house less than half full. The house was also full of comps because the local radio stations had been giving out freebies for weeks. In competitive matches held that night, Money Inc beat Nasty Boys when IRS pinned Sags, Virgil beat Berzerker, Michaels beat Jim Brunzell, Jannetty beat Repo Man, Michaels pinned Jannetty in less than six minutes, Flair pinned Bossman with his feet on the ropes for leverage, Bob Backlund (got no crowd reaction) beat Damien Demento, The Undertaker beat Shango (sub for Nailz) in a great match that featured both taking great bumps, and Hart beat Ramon with the sharpshooter. There were also a couple angles done that night. After Ric Flair beat Jim Powers in a squash, they did a live interview with Perfect. Flair, heading back to the dressing room, stopped by the interview stand to listen to Perfect. They engaged in a verbal argument, followed by a brawl between the two which was then broken up by officials. Later on the card, after Flair had pinned Bossman in their match, Bossman was beating on Flair, as Ric had won the match with his feet on the ropes. Razor Ramon ran down and attacked Bossman and then Flair joined in until Perfect entered and made the save. They did a live interview with Yokozuna talking about the Rumble, where his big push should begin. The Steiners worked a squash as they beat Red Tyler & W.T. Jones and Rick was so over with the fans, as they were barking like crazy. Earlier in the evening, Reverend Slick came out and preached for about ten minutes, which was ten minutes too long according to our correspondent, about how Kamala should be treated differently and that Kamala should dump Kimchee & Harvey Whippleman. Later on, they did a live interview with Kamala, Kimchee, and Whippleman, with the latter two saying bad things about Kamala the whole time. Slick came out and told Kamala that he should be his own man and that he could do or be anything he wanted to be. Kimchee & Dr. Harvey were leaving as Kamala stood there, considering Slick's opinions, but then went back to the dressing room with his handlers. This was a tease as to what is to come with his turn. Backlund worked a squash and got absolutely no crowd response. They are dubbing in crowd noise during all his TV matches now to cover up the problem. John Smith, a wrestler from England, received a tryout as he beat jobber Jerry Fox. There was a new ring announcer there as Mike McGuirk is recuperating from her automobile accident injuries that she suffered in the late November accident. There was also a new host for the live interviews, the segment Mean Gene Okerlund usually does. Max Moon (Paul Diamond - Kato), Nailz, Earthquake, Typhoon, Koko B. Ware, Owen Hart, Rick Martel, and Jim Duggan didn't work either night of the tapings.

Rumors are circulating that Ric Flair plans to leave the WWF after WrestleMania and return to WCW. The rumors say that he is vey unhappy with his job with the WWF right now...The Steiners made their debut on 12/14 in Green Bay, WI and one of their opponents separated his shoulder because of a move by Scott. After their match, J.J. Dillon pulled them aside in the back and told them that they're not going to do things like that while they're working for the WWF.

WWF at the Spectrum in Philadelphia, PA on 12/5 with 5,000:

Tatanka beat Damien Demento. Undertaker pinned Razor Ramon. After intermission, Ramon came out and was insulting people over the house mike when Mr. Perfect entered and jumped him, which got the best pop of the night. Crush beat Papa Shango. Bob Backlund beat Kamala. Nasty Boys beat Money Inc by DQ.

WWF at the Boston Garden in Boston, MA on 12/5 with 2,500: Skinner beat Jim Powers in 8:53. Headshrinkers beat Natural Disasters when Fatu pinned Quake in 13:38. Nailz vs Hacksaw Jim Duggan was scheduled, but before the match started, Nailz brutally beat him and the match never took place. Bret Hart pinned Ric Flair in a great 29:29 match. When they return to Boston on 1/9, they're having a one hour marathon match with Flair-Hart. Rick Martel beat Virgil in 12:28. Max Moon beat RepoMan in 8:29. Shawn Michaels beat Marty Jannetty in 12:43.

WWF at the Capital Centre in Landover, MD on 12/6 with 2,000: Cassidy beat Taylor in 9:25. Santana beat Brawler (sub for Berzerker) in 5:42. Crush beat Shango in 5:00 the the headCrush. Undertaker beat Ramon with a choke slam in 5:39. Tatanka beat Demento in 11:00. Backlund beat Kamala in 8:51. Nasty Boys beat Money Inc by DQ at 11:00. This afternoon show only lasted two hours (including a 15:00 intermission) as the guys had to catch their flights to make it home that day.

WWF at the Civic Center in Springfield, MA on 12/6 with 2,000: Moon beat Repo. Shrinkers beat Disasters. Duggan vs Nailz was the same as 12/5 in Boston. Michaels beat Jannetty. Skinner beat Powers. Martel pinned Virgil. Hart beat Flair.

WWF at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, CA on 12/11 with 3,000: Moon beat Repo. Michaels came out and was attacked by Jannetty, which caused Shawn to run back to the dressing room. They announced that the match would take place later in the show. Shrinkers beat Disasters. Backlund beat Shango. The Undertaker beat Ramon. Nasties beat Money Inc by DQ. Michaels pinned Jannetty. Hart beat Flair in over 31 minutes. The same results apply for the show at the L.A. Sports Arena in Los Angeles, CA on 12/12 and the afternoon show at the Sports Arena in San Diego, CA on 12/12. They return to Oakland on 2/13 with Shawn Michaels vs Mr. Perfect.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Two weeks of WCW Saturday Night were taped at Center Stage in Atlanta on 12/14. Jim Ross and Larry Zbyszko did not do commentary and there were no live interviews taped as they will tape them after Starrcade and add them into the shows that will air on 1/2 and 1/9. The highlights of the show that will air on 1/2 saw Cactus Jack & Barbarian beat Johnny Gunn & Tom Zenk when Barbarian pinned Gunn. They taped all four of the first round matches in the upcoming tournament to decide the #1 contender for the US title. During each match, Madusa walked out and basically acted like she was scouting talent. In the first round matches, Dustin Rhodes beat Vinnie Vegas, Tony Atlas beat Van Hammer, Barry Windham beat Johnny B. Badd with a great suplex/DDT finisher, and Ricky Steamboat beat Dan Spivey. Highlights of the show airing 1/9 saw Shanghai Pierce & Tex Slashinger wrestled Vegas & Dallas Page to a double-DQ and the Texans hung Page over the top rope with the bullrope. 2 Cold Scorpio worked a squash and it appeared as though his knee gave out on him and was limping back to the dressing room after the match. In the two semi-final matches in the #1 contender for the US title tourney, Rhodes pinned Lance Cassidy beat Terry Taylor. Berzerker beat Tito Santana. Atlas with the bulldog and Steamboat beat Windham by DQ in a 20+ minute match when Barry threw Ricky over the top rope. After that match, there was a great post match brawl with Steamboat, Windham, Rhodes, Shane Douglas, Brian Pillman, and Steve Austin. In an interesting note, Cactus Jack's head was bandaged up for the taping of the 1/9 show, but not for the 1/2 show. They return to Center Stage on 1/11 to tape shows airing 1/16 and 1/23 with Steamboat vs Rhodes in the tourney final to determine the #1 contender for the US title, or that just could be what they announced this tournament to the fans as that night, because if Simmons drops the belt to Rude at Starrcade, they will most likely hold a tournament to crown a new champion. And the tournament described above could be the tourney to crown a new US Champion, if the belt does change hands at Starrcade.

WCW has added several new faces to their booking committee as Greg Gagne and Bill Dundee are added to the current team of Bill Watts, Dusty Rhodes, Jim Ross, Larry Zbyszko, and Mike Graham. The reason they are bringing in more guys is to put together some new concepts and get the TV ratings up because that is their #1 responsibility, as they are owned by television company. They are talking to many other people for this committee, as Eddie Gilbert met with Watts in Atlanta at the beginning of last week. Dusty Rhodes is most likely going to stay with WCW for a lot less money and a decrease in his control, but will still be a main member of the committee.

Expect Dallas Page and Vinnie Vegas to be gone within the next month. The word is out that Ron Simmons' contract with WCW is up in February and it may not be renewed. Arn Anderson is staying with WCW and Bobby Eaton might be staying as well. Nikita Koloff is set to return in late January or maybe early February.

The Light-Heavyweight Championsip division seems to be non-existent now as WCW has no plans in the future of reviving it. The TV title is in limbo right now after the situation with Scott Steiner and WCW hasn't decided how they're going to handle the situation as of yet.

WCW at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, NC on 12/13: Brad Armstrong beat Mike Graham. Tom Zenk & Johnny Gunn beat Shanghai Pierce & Tex Slashinger when Gunn pinned Slashinger. Erik Watts wrestled Steve Austin to a time-limit draw. Johnny B. Badd knocked out Scotty Flamingo in the third round to win the boxing contest. Brian Pillman beat 2 Cold Scorpio. Dustin Rhodes vs Barry Windham was a double-countout. Rick Steamboat & Ron Simmons (sub for Shane Douglas) beat Danny Spivey & Big Van Vader when Steamboat pinned Spivey.

THE LEGENDS OF WRESTLING CONVENTION

This event will take place on January 23 and January 24 at the Philadelphia International Airport Radisson Hotel in PA. The full lineup of superstars appearing both days: "The Man Formerly Known as The Ultimate Warrior", Davey Boy Smith, Sid Vicious, The Road Warriors Hawk and Animal, Terry Funk, Kerry Von Erich, Woman, and Kevin Sullivan. Admission is only $3 in advance and $5 at the door. The convention is from 12 to 6pm each day and the first night of the convention will feature a co-promoted card between the ECW and the WWA with Terry Funk vs Eddie Gilbert in an I Quit match, WWA Champ Spider vs ECW

Champ Spider, WWA Tag Team Champions Lords of Darkness vs ECW Tag Team Champions Super Destroyers, and others. For all information and tickets for the events, call (800) 435-5267.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

At an indie show in Wilmington, MA, on 12/5, Demolition Ax, Jimmy Snuka, and Mike Sharpe appeared. However, the big news is that Jim Hellwig (formerly The Ultimate Warrior) made a surprise appearance and did a run-in and was also interviewed in front of about 2,300 fans. He ran in wearing a long coat and a hat and then he took them off, revealing himself as Jim Hellwig. The show was promoted by Wendell Weatherbee and "The Man Formerly Known as The Ultimate Warrior" returns to that area for him on 1/8 in Billerica, MA and will meet Hercules.

Jerry Lawler, who lost the USWA title on 12/7 in Memphis at the Mid-South Coliseum to Koko B. Ware, regained it from Koko at the Coliseum one week later on 12/14...Warrior Hawk (LOD Hawk) and Power Warrior (Kensuke Sasaki), now called The Hell Raisers, defeated Tony Halme and Scott Norton on 12/13 in Japan to win the IWGP Tag Team Championships.

FLYER FAN FARE

Jason M. Shepard of 1110 Vine Street, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965 operates the Shawn Michaels Fan Club. He does a very good job with it and there are several different packages available. Please drop him a line if you're interested. Also, he has just compiled a 16 page "1st Annual Newsletter Awards" sheet with results of the awards, which sells for $3.

WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

Each issue comes with news from WWF-WCW-Indies, results, a great color photo, plus interviews with:

Issue #4- June 6: Jerry Lawler
Issue #5- June 20: Paul Roma and Johnny B. Badd
Issue #6- July 4: Iron Sheik and Jimmy Snuka
Issue #7- July 18: Bruno Sammartino -Part I
Issue #8- Aug 1: Kerry Von Erich
Issue #9- Aug 15: Bruno Sammartino -Part II
Issue #10- Aug 29: Terry Taylor -Part I
Issue #11-Sept 12: Hawk and Terry Taylor -Part II
Issue #12-Sept 26: Marty Jannetty -Part I
Issue #13- Oct 10: Marty Jannetty -Part II
Issue #14- Oct 24: Road Warrior Animal
Issue #15- Nov 7: Buddy Landell
Issue #16- Nov 21: Davey Boy Smith and Paul Ellering
Issue #17- Dec 5: Jake Roberts

Each back issue is $2 and they can be ordered by sending the proper payment to PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could phone in a report of any live shows you attend within a day after the event is held to our hotline, (215) 566-6590. And after you view any major event (PPVs, cable specials, etc), it would be appreciated if you could phone in your rating for the whole show: A (best) to F (worst) within a day after the event takes place. We would very much appreciate your participation in these two important activities.

******* Please phone in grade for Starrcade '92 *******

The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter is a bi-weekly publication available by subscription for $1.50 ($2.50 for orders outside of U.S.) per issue. Each issue is eight pages full of fascinating interviews, fresh inside news, articles, results, and a great color photo accompanies each issue.
The special color photo with issue #18 is of Roddy Piper.

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